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THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF UXBRIDGE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1943



W. TOWNSEND DOBSON, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.)

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1943

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
259, HIGH STREET,
UXBRIDGE.

July, 1944.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE UXBRIDGE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for 1943 upon the health and conditions of the Urban District of Uxbridge.

In accordance with the instructions contained in Ministry of Health circulars this Report has been restricted to essential and urgent matters, and is to be regarded as an Interim Report only.

I wish to express my appreciation of the excellent work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors, and especially to Mr. V. E. Baughan, the Chief Inspector, who has embodied in this Report a large amount of detail of the work carried out under the heading of "Sanitary Inspection of the Area."

Increasing attention is being given to the food and milk supplies of the district.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. TOWNSEND DOBSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

AREA.

Total area of District 10,237·363 acres.

POPULATION.

The Registrar-General's Estimate of Population for the mid-year 1943 is 45,840.

TOTAL BIRTHS.

Sex		<i>Live</i>		<i>Stillborn</i>		<i>Total</i>
		<i>Legitimate</i>	<i>Illegitimate</i>	<i>Legitimate</i>	<i>Illegitimate</i>	
Males	...	410	29	12	—	451
Females	...	368	36	11	—	415
		—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	778	65	23	—	866
		—	—	—	—	—

BIRTH RATE.

		1942		1943		Basis.
		No.	Birth Rate.	No.	Birth Rate.	
LIVE BIRTHS	Legitimate	829	17·702	778	16·972	Per 1,000 Registrar-General's estimated Resident Population
	Illegitimate	48	1·025	65	1·418	
	Total	877	18·727	843	18·390	
STILL BIRTHS	Legitimate	28	30·905	23	26·559	Per 1,000 total (<i>i.e.</i> , live and still) births
	Illegitimate	1	1·103	—	—	
	Total	29	32·008	23	26·559	
TOTAL BIRTHS	Legitimate	857	18·300	801	17·465	Per 1,000 Registrar-General's estimated Resident Population
	Illegitimate	49	1·046	65	1·417	
	Total	906	19·346	866	18·892	

The decrease is slight and I rather expected a bigger decrease, but the percentage is a satisfactory figure all the same.

DEATHS AND DEATH RATE.

	Total Deaths (All Causes).		Death Rate (per 1,000) Registrar-General's estimated Resident Population.	
	1942	1943	1942	1943
Male ...	235	223	9·78	9·969
Female ...	223	234		
TOTAL ...	458	457		

In the following table you will see the number of deaths from certain diseases during the year :—

<i>Disease.</i>						<i>Deaths.</i>	
						1942.	1943.
Scarlet Fever...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	5	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	31	41
Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	26	18
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	97	102
Cancer...	...	...	...	...	...	70	72
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	36	38
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	1	7
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	15	26
Kidney Disease	...	...	...	...	...	18	11
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
Puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	1	4

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Death Rate per 1,000.</i>
In Total Live Births	26	16	42	49·822
In Legitimate Live Births...	23	14	37	47·558
In Illegitimate Live Births	3	2	5	76·923

The number of deaths of infants under one year has decreased from 44 during 1942 to 42 during the year under review. The rate has decreased from 50·17 to 49·822.

NOTE.—The Registrar-General has provided an adjusted figure of births, for the purpose of this calculation, which allows for temporary movements of population.

DEATHS.

After 5 deaths from diphtheria in 1942, no death from this disease has occurred during the year 1943, due to the very active immunisation campaign.

Tuberculosis deaths show a drop from 29 to 20 for all forms. I suggest this is due to obtaining an earlier diagnosis than formerly—hence earlier treatment.

LIST OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.

<i>Disease.</i>	1942.	1943.
Scarlet Fever	136	228
Diphtheria	43	—
Enteric Fever	—	1
Erysipelas	33	29
Puerperal Pyrexia	69	59
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	2	5
Pneumonia	56	89
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary ...	75	80
Non-Pulmonary	15	11
Poliomyelitis	1	1
Whooping Cough	72	127
Measles	404	371

SCARLET FEVER.

The big increase in the cases notified of the above disease is not surprising, due to so many mothers being employed on work of National importance and the consequent lack of supervision of the children in the early and highly infective stage of the disease, in spite of its mild character.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The number of immunisations completed in the year is 1,001, divided into two age groups, as follows:—

<i>Under 5 years.</i>	<i>5 years but under 15.</i>
539	462

This brings the total number of children immunised up to 7,350.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

REPORT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

The following modified form of report is a summary of the work carried out by the Inspectorate during the year 1943, when a total of 5,456 visits were made, the following being the principal items:—

Housing Act	833
Public Health Act	948
Prevention of Infectious Disease ...	285
Verminous conditions including Scabies	567
Factories Act	54
Food Supply including Milk Production	715
Drainage	81
Council Houses inspected	187
Gipsy encampments	149

In addition the whole of the Council's houses were visited and tenancies reviewed.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Wholesale depots, food shops, stalls, slaughterhouses and other premises where food is prepared, stored or sold have been frequently visited and the various foodstuffs examined. Considerable activity has arisen from such visits, which have received increased attention, particularly salvage of foodstuffs.

During the year 93 pigs were slaughtered under licence of the Ministry of Food ; these were inspected and no disease was found.

There is close co-operation between the Department and the local and divisional offices of the Ministry of Food.

WATER SUPPLY.

The District has a piped supply of water from two undertakings.

During the year 12 samples were taken from the mains of the Council's undertaking, and 12 from those of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company. All proved to be satisfactory.

MILK SUPPLY.

The farms and dairies in the District are inspected several times during the course of each year. The premises generally are of satisfactory character.

There are 20 cowkeepers in the area, 6 of whom are licenced as "Accredited" producers by the Middlesex County Council. There are 11 other purveyors, of whom 5 have bottling premises out of the area.

Fifteen principal and 3 supplementary licences have been issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, for the sale of graded milks.

Eighty-four samples of milk were sent for bacteriological examination, which showed that most of the samples were of a reasonable degree of purity.

In one case tuberculosis infection was found, leading to the investigations ; unfortunately, the delay occasioned by guinea-pig inoculation was responsible for inability to trace the suspected cow, which was probably sold at a sale during the 8 weeks taken up by the test.

BACTERIOLOGICAL.

Checks upon efficiency of sterilisation of utensils and apparatus are carried out, the necessary apparatus being prepared in the Department. Such samples are sent to Dr. McGowan, our pathologist.

Gerber tests for fats, etc., are carried out in the Department on all samples as a matter of routine. None were found unsatisfactory.

PATHOLOGICAL WORK.

All samples (milk, water, food, sputa, swabs, etc.) are now submitted to Dr. McGowan, 70, Sharps Lane, Ruislip, for reports. This results in a considerable saving of time in receiving information.



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